

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR
RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated November 6,
2002, please amend the above-identified as follows:

In the specification:

After the claims, please ~~insert~~ the attached
"Abstract".

In the claims:

Please ~~amend~~ claims 1, 2, 7, 9-13 and 21, as follows:

Bd
1. (Amended) A method of converting a first composition comprising ferulic acid into a second composition comprising vanillin, said method comprising treating said first composition with *Pseudomonas putida* IMI 382568 under conditions such that ferulic acid is converted into vanillin, and the vanillin accumulates in the culture medium.

11
2. (Amended) A method according to claim ~~46~~^{A1} wherein said strain is *Pseudomonas putida* IMI 382568.